



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **West Valley City & Taylorsville Animal Shelter Close to No-Kill Status**

West Valley City – During a presentation to the West Valley City Council on Tuesday, December 4, Best Friends Animal Society – Utah Executive Director Anna Gonce made an announcement that drew applause from the Mayor and City Council – since partnering with Best Friends in June, the animal shelter is on track to meet its goal of becoming a no-kill shelter much faster than anyone had anticipated. The shelter's original goal of an 80 percent save rate by 2014 has already been surpassed with the shelter currently at 82 percent. A 90 percent save rate would merit the shelter a no-kill status (shelters typically euthanize 10 percent of animals who are extremely aggressive, sick or badly injured.)

"I am delighted that West Valley City has worked so closely with the Best Friends team in Northern Utah to help save more lives," says Best Friends Animal Society CEO and Co-Founder Gregory Castle. "Our partnership is one of a very few progressive programs, leading the way in public/private collaboration and creating benefits for both citizens and animals in the community."

West Valley City's continued partnership with Best Friends Animal Society involves a variety of programs intended to increase save rates. Adoption promotions, spay/neuter assistance, feral cat TNR (trap, neuter, release) programs and continued community engagement initiatives focusing on spaying and neutering, microchipping and licensing, adoption and responsible ownership are expected to further increase save rates.

"West Valley City values lives of all sizes in our community," says Mayor Mike Winder. "This is evident as we work hard to become the first major city in Utah to have a no-kill animal shelter."

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